

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01180 191611Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /096 W  
-----043485 201436Z /43

R 191520Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6861  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
USELMLO BEL

CONFIDENTIAL USBERLIN 1180

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI  
SUBJECT: AUTOBAHN INCIDENT WITH CARGO VAN MAY 17

1. ON MAY 17, A U.S. ONE-TON CARGO VAN, DOCUMENTED IN  
STANDARD FASHION WITH MOVEMENT ORDERS, WAS TURNED BACK THREE  
TIMES BY THE SOVIETS AT CHECKPOINT MARIENBORN WHEN IT WAS  
ATTEMPTING TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN ON THE BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN.  
ON THE FOURTH ATTEMPT, APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS AFTER THE  
INITIAL REFUSAL, THE SOVIETS PERMITTED THE VEHICLE TO PASS,  
AND IT PROCEEDED TO BERLIN WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

2. THE DISPUTE WAS ONE WHICH HAS SURFACED FROM TIME TO TIME  
DURING LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THE SOVIET DUTY OFFICER AT  
MARIENBORN CLAIMED THE VEHICLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED WITH  
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FLAG ORDERS RATHER THAN MOVEMENT ORDERS AS HE CONSIDERED  
THE VEHICLE TO BE A "MICROBUS." THE BRITISH USE MOVEMENT  
ORDERS FOR BUSES, HAVING CHANGED THEIR PROCEDURES RECENTLY  
TO CONFORM WITH WHAT SOVIETS THOUGHT WAS PROPER PRACTICE;  
THE U.S. DOCUMENTS BUSES WITH FLAG ORDERS. BOTH DOCUMENT  
CARGO CARRIERS WITH MOVEMENT ORDERS. IN THIS CASE, THE  
CONFIGURATION OF THE VAN IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF A BUS.

3. THE U.S. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER WILL BE PRESENTING A PROTEST AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON MAY 22. HE WILL BE POINTING OUT THAT THE SOVIET QUIBBLING OVER DOCUMENTATION IN THIS CASE AMOUNTED TO A DENIAL OF ACCESS. IN VIEW OF THE ALLIED RIGHT OF UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO AND FROM BERLIN, SUCH BEHAVIOR WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND EVEN IF THERE WERE SOME DISPUTE OVER POINTS OF DOCUMENTATION, THE SOVIETS SHOULD ALLOW THE VEHICLE TO PASS AND, IF NECESSARY, DISCUSS IT WITH THE U.S. AUTHORITIES LATER.

5. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CARGO, MILITARY VEHICLES, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978USBERL01180  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780213-0169  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabgiy.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5276179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2631279  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUTOBAHN INCIDENT WITH CARGO VAN MAY 17  
**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, UR  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5276179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014